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FELIXSTOWE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR YEAR
1969

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** Vice-Chairman of the Public Health and Housing Committee

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

C.H. Imrie, T.D.,M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Joseph Bennett Compton, M.R.S.H.,M.A.P.H.I. (Resigned November 1969)

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

James Marley Yarham, M.A.P.H.I.

CLERK

Mrs. E. North.

Public Health Dept.,
South Beach Mansion,
Felixstowe.

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies & Gentlemen,

I herewith present the combined annual reports of the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Public Health Inspector for the year 1969. This has been prepared on the lines of previous reports and follows a similar pattern.

In general the environmental state of the Town was good during the period under review and the health and general well being of the population remained at a satisfactory level.

The work of the Public Health Department has been carried on vigourously and the standards of food hygiene in the increasing number of food purveying premises has received particular attention.

During the year Mr. J.B. Compton, the former Chief Public Health Inspector, resigned from the employment of the Council on his appointment to another authority and Mr. John Finch was appointed Chief Public Health Inspector in his place. I extend to Mr. Finch a most cordial welcome.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Members of the Council and its Officers for their kindness and co-operation during the year.

Yours faithfully,

C.H. Imrie

Medical Officer of Health

December, 1970.

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STATISTICS

General Statistics

1.	Area of District in acres	4,281
2.	Number of inhabited houses	6,686
3.	Density of population - persons per acre	4.31
4.	Average number of persons per house	2.88
5.	Rateable value of district	£910,360
6.	Sum represented by penny rate	£3,265

Vital Statistics

Summary

	1968	1969
Population	19,430	19.310
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	16.8	
Local Adjusted Live Birth Rate	17.4	14.1
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births	12	4
General Death Rate per 1,000 population	15.6	14.6
Local Adjusted General Death Rate	10.9	9.9
Actual number of deaths under one year	5	6

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	128	100	228
Illegitimate	13	13	26
			254

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	13.2
Birth Rate adjusted for comparison with other areas	14.1
Live Birth Rate, England & Wales	16.3
Illegitimate live births percentage of all live births	10.

Still Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
			1

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live Births 4

Deaths All Causes

	Male	Female	Total
	120	162	282

Death Rate per 1,000 population	14.6
Death Rate adjusted for comparison with other areas	9.9
Death Rate, England & Wales	11.9

Deaths from Puerperal and Other Maternal Causes

NIL

Deaths of Infants

	Under 1 Wk.	1-4 Wks.	4Wks.-1Yr.	Total
Male	-	-	-	-
Female	5	1	-	6
Total	5	1	-	6

Causes of Death under 1 Year

	Male	Female	Total
Congenital Anomalies	-	2	2
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	-	4	4
			6

Death Rate of Children under 1 year per 1,000 live births 24.

Cause of Death

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis. Respiratory	-	1	1
Syphilis	1	-	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	-	1
Malignant Diseases. Oesophagus	2	2	4
Stomach	1	4	5
Intestines	6	3	9
Lung	12	1	13
Breast	-	8	8
Uterus	-	1	1
Prostate	3	-	3
Leukaemia	1	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	9	8	17
Diabetes Mellitus	-	1	1
Other Disease of Nervous System	-	3	3
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	1	2
Hypertensive Disease	3	1	4
Ischaemic Heart Disease	30	34	64
Other forms of Heart Disease	2	7	9
Cerebrovascular Disease	9	31	40
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	7	9	16
Pneumonia	12	22	34
Bronchitis & Emphysema	8	-	8
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	-	1
Peptic Ulcer	3	-	3
Appendicitis	-	1	1
Intestinal obstruction & hernia	-	2	2
Other digestive diseases	1	3	4
Other diseases genito urinary system	1	1	2
Musculo skeletal diseases	-	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	-	2	2
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	-	4	4
Symptoms & ill defined conditions	1	2	3
Motor vehicle accidents	4	-	4
All other accidents	1	6	7
Suicide & self inflicted injuries	-	3	3
	120	162	282

Notifiable Diseases

The Table which follows shows the particulars concerning the notifications received during the year. It will be noted that of 50 cases of infectious disease which were notified 44 were due to measles and the majority of these fell within the pre-school age group. Of the other notifications 5 related to scarletina and one to infectious hepatitis or jaundice.

The incidence of infectious disease is gradually falling due in part to the various immunisation scheme, but also in some measure to the better understanding of hygiene which is to be found among the general public.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the information about immunisations which were carried out in Felixstowe during the year.

Notifiable Disease Classified by Age

Age	Disease					
	Measles		Scarletina		Infectious Hepatitis	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	2	1	-	-	-	-
1	8	2	-	-	-	-
2	5	2	-	-	-	-
3	3	4	-	-	-	-
4	3	-	-	-	-	-
5-9	3	7	3	2	-	-
10-14	-	1	-	-	-	-
15-24	1	1	-	-	1	-
25-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	1	-	-	-	-
	25	19	3	2	1	-

Vaccination and Immunisations Figures

	Primary Courses	Boosters & Re-vaccinations
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis	131	148
Diphtheria/Tetanus	3	305
Tetanus	4	19
Salk Poliomyelitis	-	-
Sabin Poliomyelitis	139	469
Measles	98	-
Smallpox	193	51

Tuberculosis Table for 1969

	Male		Female		Total
	Pulm	NonPulm	Pulm.	NonPulm	
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on Register on 1.1.69	28	5	23	5	61
Number of cases notified under Regulations for the first time during the year	-	-	2	-	2
Number of cases restored to the Register having been removed in the previous year	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases added to the Register and brought to Notice otherwise than by Primary Notification	1	-	-	-	1
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year	2	-	-	-	2
Number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year	27	5	25	5	62

Reasons for Removal from T.B. Register

	Male	Female	Total
Recovered	2	-	2
Removed to other Districts	-	-	-
Died (not notified as T.B.)	-	1	1

Sunshine and Rainfall for Year 1969

	Sunshine hours Hr.	Min	Rainfall inches
January	24	45	2.130
February	76	40	2.067
March	77	45	3.318
April	197	45	1.160
May	207	-	3.882
June	268	45	1.469
July	211	-	3.606
August	174	5	2.315
September	166	30	0.434
October	125	-	0.387
November	67	30	7.919
December	23	-	4.240

	1968	1969
Average hours of Sunshine per day	3.8	4.43
Actual inches of Rainfall for year	24.120	32.927

Summary of Inspections

Table 1.

Houses inspected	308
Re-inspections as to execution of work	375
Drainage systems surveyed and tested	44
Rent Acts, Enquiries & Investigations	9
Improvement Grants Surveys & Inspections	124
Infectious disease control	5
Pest Control	-
Noise Nuisance	12
Other nuisances & defects	56
Water supplies & sampling	86
Beach hut sites	14
Overcrowding investigations	6
Camping sites	68
Air pollution	-
Offensive Trades	-
Food Premises (See Table)	498
Meat Inspections	103
Food Inspections (excluding meat)	268
Factory Acts	66
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	44
Miscellaneous	341
	2477

Table 2.

Action under Statutory Powers

Details of notices served as follows:

Statute	Informal Notices	Statutory Notices	Complied with	Outstanding at 31. 12. 69
a) Public Health Acts, 1936/61	57	12	31	26
b) Housing Acts, 1957/64	-	-	-	-
c) Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963	1	-	-	-
d) Factories Act, 1961	-	-	-	-
e) Food Hygiene Regulations (incl. Stalls & Delivery vehicles)	12	-	2	10
f) Miscellaneous Acts	-	-	-	-
	70	12	34	36

Soil and Tetanus

Research in the regional distribution of tetanus, the incidence of the causal organisms in different soils and the resistance of wild strains of Cl. tetani to antibiotics is taking place.

Twelve samples of local soils were submitted for examinations, the results of which were negative.

Bonemeal and Salmonellosis

Ten samples of Bonemeal fertilizer prepacked for retail sale were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for examination. The following Salmonella types were isolated from the samples:

Salm. Simsbury
Salm. Merenster
Salm. Altona
Salm. Bredoney
Salm. Cubana
Salm. Meleagridis
Salm. Senftenberg

Although the problem of the use of unsterilised raw meal is essentially related to fertilizers, it can be extended to animal feeding stuffs if the farmer uses it to make up his own feed.

Clean Air

There are five industrial furnaces in the Urban District, three of which and their chimneys were given prior approval under the Clean Air Act, 1956. Complaints of smut and smoke nuisance from a factory chimney were investigated during the year.

The Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods)(Vessels) Regulations, 1958

These Regulations make it an offence for a vessel in inland water ways or port and harbour waters to emit smoke for longer than a specified period. No contraventions were observed during the year.

Water Supplies

Main Supplies

Water is supplied in bulk by the Ipswich Corporation Water Undertaking, being purified by means of sedimentation, filtration and chlorination.

12 samples of water were taken by the Department, during the year, for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory. All were satisfactory.

The natural fluoride content of the water supplied for domestic purposes is 0.1 parts per million. The water is not plumbo-solvent.

Main and Other Supplies in the Urban District

Table 3 shows the water supplies, number of houses and population served on 31st December, 1969. That all houses have an adequate supply of wholesome water and only eight are without a piped supply in the dwelling represents a high standard of achievement in this field.

Table 3.

No. of Houses	Served by	Population
6662	Mains supply	1867
8	" (Standpipes)	21
16	Bores and Wells	43

Extensions of mains during the year : 1315 yards

Children's Paddling Pool

Nine samples of water were taken from this pool during its use through the holiday season. Two were unsatisfactory. Corrective action was taken immediatly on receipt of the unsatisfactory reports.

Swimming Pools

There are three pools in the town, two at private schools, and one at a holiday camp. Apart from "on-the-spot" tests for pH value and chlorine by the Lovibond D.P.D. method, eight samples of plunge water were taken for bacteriological examination. All were satisfactory.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Table 4.

Houses	Provided with
6686	Main Drainage
82	Cesspools/Septic Tanks

Extensions of public sewers during the year: 3703 yards

Housing

New Dwellings : Figures of houses built in the District since 1945 are given below:

New Dwellings Completed

Year	Private Development	Council Development
1945/1950	51	302
1951	9	75
1952	12	64
1953	38	84
1954	64	103
1955	69	85
1956	64	80
1957	49	45
1958	47	41
1959	35	57
1960	68	25
1961	102	-
1962	78	-
1963	76	10
1964	143	18
1965	98	19
1966	128	47
1967	146	49
1968	204	42
1969	132	19
	1613	1165

Table 5 summaries action taken under the Public Health and Housing Acts in respect of individual houses found to be seriously defective or unfit for human habitation. The action considered appropriate depends on the individual circumstances of each case.

Existing Dwellings

Defective or Unfit Houses

Table 5.

Number of houses at which defects were remedied after informal action	23
Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notice	7
Number of Demolition Orders made	Nil
Number of Closing Orders made	Nil
Number of undertakings accepted not to use dwellings for human habitation	1
Number of unfit houses awaiting statutory action (31.12.69)	83

Rent Acts, 1957/68

Certificates of Disrepair for Rent-controlled Houses

Details of action taken are:

Table 6.

Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	2
Number of decisions to issue Certificates	
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	-
(b) in respect of all defects	2
Number of undertakings given by Landlords under paragraph 6 of the First Schedule	2
Number of Certificates issued	Nil

Housing Improvement

Two Compulsory House-Improvement Areas were defined and declared under the Housing Act 1964 in previous years. Follow-up work done during the year in respect of these areas is shown in Table 7 and of the compulsory improvement of dwellings outside these areas in Table 8. An Improvement Areas is one which contains dwellings lacking one or more of the standard amenities but at least half of which are capable of improvement to the full standard.

During the year 18 applications for improvement grants were approved. The small number of applications received during the year is disappointing and it must be hoped that the changes made by the Housing Act 1969 will result in an improvement next year.

Table 7.

Improvement of Dwellings Inside Improvement Areas

Preliminary notices served proposing improvement to:		Number dwellings concerned	
	full standard		4
	reduced standard	"	–
Undertakings given		"	–
Improvement notices served	: Immediate	"	–
	: Suspended	"	–
	: Final	"	–
Appeals under Section 27		"	–
Notices withdrawn	: Immediate	"	–
	: Suspended	"	–
	: Final	"	–
Improvement works completed		"	15

Table 8.

Improvement of Dwellings Outside Improvement Area

Preliminary notices served proposing improvement to:	Number dwellings concerned	
full standard	"	7
reduced standard	"	–
Undertakings given	"	4
Improvement notices served	"	–
Appeals against improvement notices	"	–
Improvement notices withdrawn	"	–
Improvement works completed	"	6

Caravans and Camping

Particulars of licences outstanding at the end of the year are:

Licences to use land as a site for holiday caravans	Maximum No. of Vans permitted
9	1006
Licences to use land as a site for rented camping	**Maximum No. of Tents permitted**
2	26

Inspection and Supervision of Food Supplies

Table 9.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

Type of Business	Total No.	No. of Inspections	No. of Premises fitted to comply with *Reg. 19	*Reg.16
Cafes and Canteens	63	110	63	63
Hotels and Guest Houses	84	27	84	84
Bakehouses	4	25	4	4
Grocers	35	97	32	32
Butchers	18	106	18	18
Fruiterers & Greengrocers	17	114	16	16
Confectioners & Sweetshops	21	10	21	21
Licensed Premises	18	10	18	18
Fish shops (Fried & Wet)	11	16	11	11
Stalls (inc. Mobile Shops)	46	75	-	-
Daires	1	-	-	-
Ice Cream Manufacturers	5	1	5	5
Ice Cream Vendors	111	7	111	111
	435	498	383	356

* Regulations 16 & 19 require the provision of adequate sinks and wash-hand basins with hot and cold supplies.

Food Complaints

Six cases of the sale of food which was not of the nature, quality or substance which a purchaser could expect, were investigated. These included:

Sale of mouldy Steak & Kidney pies.
Sale of thawed out frozen chicken cut up and sold from a mobile shop.
Sale of mouldy sausage rolls.
Sale of mouldy prepacked chocolate covered sponge fingers.
Sale of unfit skinless sausages.
Sale of mouldy crumpets.

Meat Inspection

A 100% inspection of all carcases was achieved at the local slaughterhouse (See Table 10 below).

Table 10

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or Part

	Cattle Ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	12	-	23	31	38	-
Number inspected	12	-	23	31	38	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	7	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	3	-
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Public Health Shellfish Regulations, 1934

Whelks are obtainable from Shingle Street and the Orwell Estuary and are cooked before sale.

Three samples of shellfish were taken during the year. The results were satisfactory.

Section 88, Felixstowe U.D.C. Act, 1947

The following registrations have been made:-

a) Persons registered as food hawkers: 18

b) Persons registered for the storage of food intended for sale from a cart, barrow or other vehicle : 16

Milk and Dairies

There are thirty-seven registered distributors and one registered dairy in the district, all dealing in designated heat-treated milks.

Samples of Milk and Fresh Cream taken for Bacteriological Examination

Table 11.

No. of Samples Taken	Type	Results	
	Pasteurised Milk	Satisfactory	43
		Unsatisfactory	-
	Sterilised Milk	Satisfactory	5
		Unsatisfactory	-
	Pasteurised Fresh Cream	Satisfactory	21
		Unsatisfactory	13

All unsatisfactory samples were followed up and, where appropriate corrective action taken.

11 samples of sausage were taken during the year. All were satisfactory.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation Regulations 1963

Three samples of imported pasteurised liquid egg were submitted to the alpha-amylase test with satisfactory results.

Voluntary Surrendered Unsound Food

Food suspected of being unsound is either brought by the complainant purchaser to the Public Health Department for examination or made available for inspection at the food premises concerned.

Table 12 records the foodstuffs examined and declared unfit for human consumption outside the local slaughterhouse.

Table 12

Goods Canned or Packed

Commodity	No. of Cans or Packs
Meat	10
Frozen Foods	307
Pies	19

Goods Not Canned or Packed

Commodity	Weight
Meat & chickens	2 cwt. 56lb.

Byelaws - Hairdressers & Barbers

There are twenty-five of these premises in Felixstowe, all comply with the basic structural and functional requirements of the local byelaws made under the Public Health Act, 1961.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

This Act places a statutory duty on the occupier of any land or buildings to notify the Council of an infestation of his premises by rats or mice. The number of notifications or complaints received during the year was:-

Private Houses	450
Business Premises	46
Waste Land or Neglected Building Plots	4

A summary of work appears in the following Table.

Table 13

	Type of Property	
	Non Agriculture	Agriculture
Total number of properties inspected following notification.	438	-
Number infested by Rats.	408	-
Mice.	30	-
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or Mice for reasons other than notification.	927	14
Number infested by Rats.	415	10
Mice	Nil	Nil

Working Conditions in Shops and Offices

Implementation of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, has brought about a big improvement in working conditions in these premises the majority of which locally attain, if not surpass, statutory standards.

Table 14 lists local registrations (excluding family businesses and factory offices) and general inspections, Table 15 the class of work place and number of persons employed and Table 16 analyses the contraventions discovered.

Accidents Notified

One accident was notified as follows:

1. A fall down steps

Table 14

Class of Premises	No. of Premises Registered during the year	Total No. of Registered premises at end of year	No. of Registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	2	82	28
Retail Shops	1	142	14
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	-	2	-
Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens etc.	1	26	2
Fuel storage depots	-	1	1
	4	254	44

Table 15

Class of workplace	No. of persons employed
Office	1116
Retail shops	629
Wholesale departments, warehouses	4
Catering establishments open to the public	176
Canteens	14
Fuel storage depots	13
	1952
Total Males	877
Total Females	1075

Table 16

Analysis of Contraventions

Section		Number of Contraventions Found
4	Cleanliness	-
5	Overcrowding	-
6	Temperature	-
7	Ventilation	-
8	Lighting	-
9	Sanitary	-
10	Washing Facilities	-
11	Supply of Drinking Water	-
12	Clothing Accommodation	-
13	Sitting Facilities	-
14	Seats (Sedentary Workers)	-
15	Eating Facilities	-
16	Floors, passages & stairs	-
17	Fencing exposed parts of machinery	-
18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	-
19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	-
23	Prohibition of heavy work	-
24	First Aid General Provisions	1
		1

Administration of Factories Act, 1964

Inspection for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	No. of Occupi Prosec
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	66	-	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	70	4	-	-

There are 70 registered factories in the town, mainly engaged in light engineering.

There is one registered outworker in the town.

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork

Sections 110 and 111

Nature of work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by section 110 (1) (C)	No. of cases of default in sending list to Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to apply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing) Apparel) Making etc. Cleaning & Washing.	1	-	-	-	-	-
Household linen.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lace, lace curtains & nets.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture & upholstery.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Electro-plate.	-	-	-	-	-	-
File making.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brass and brass articles.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fur pulling.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iron and steel cables and chains.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iron and steel anchors and grapnels.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cart gear.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Locks, latches and keys.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Umbrellas etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-

Outwork

Sections 110 and 111

Nature of work	Section 110				Section 111	
	No. of outworkers in August list required by section 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending list to Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to apply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Artificial Flowers.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nets other than wire nets.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tents.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Racquet & tennis balls.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paper bags.	-	-	-	-	-	-
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brush making.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pea picking.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feather sorting.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carding etc. of buttons.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stuffed toys.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Basket making.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chocolate and sweetmeats.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cosaques, Christmas stockings etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Textile weaving.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lampshades.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	-	-	-	-	-